AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1	1. (Currently amended) A method for using digital signatures to
2	validate an amendment to a financial transaction, comprising:
3	receiving a request to make the amendment to the financial transaction,
4	wherein the financial transaction was previously agreed upon between a first party
5	and a second party, wherein the request is received from a first representative of
6	the first party and includes a suggested change to at least one term of the financial
7	transaction;
8	validating that the first representative of the first party has permission to
9	agree to the amendment by verifying that the permission information for the first
10	representative is digitally signed by a trusted entity, wherein the permission
11	information is stored in a central permission database;
12	validating that the first representative of the first party digitally signed the
13	request by using a public key of the first representative to verify that the request
14	was signed by a corresponding private key belonging to the first representative;
15	if the validation establishes that the first representative signed the request
16	and if the second party desires to agree to the request,
17	allowing a second representative of the second party to
18	confirm the request by digitally signing the request with a private
19	key belonging to the second representative, and
20	returning the confirmed request to the first party;

21	otherwise, if the second party does not desire to agree to the request or if		
22	the validation does not establish that the first representative signed the request,		
23 returning a rejection of the request to the first part			
1	2 (Canceled).		
1	3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the		
2	validation establishes that the first representative signed the request, and if the		
3	second party does not agree to the request, but instead desires to propose counter-		
4	terms, allowing the second party to propose counter-terms by:		
5	creating a responding request including a responding amendment with the		
6	counter-terms;		
7	allowing the second representative of the second party to digitally sign the		
8	responding request with a private key belonging to the second representative; and		
9	sending the signed responding request to the first party.		
1	4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:		
2	validating that the second representative of the second party digitally		
3	signed the responding request by using a public key of the second representative		
4	to verify that the responding request was signed by a corresponding private key		
5	belonging to the second representative; and		
6	if the validation establishes that the second representative signed the		
7	responding request, and if the first party desires to agree to the responding request,		
8	allowing the first representative of the first party to confirm		
9	the responding request by digitally signing the responding request		
10	with a private key belonging to the first representative, and		
11	returning the confirmed responding request to the second		
12	party;		

13	otherwise, if the first party does not desire to agree to the responding		
14	request or if the validation does not establish that the second representative signed		
15	the responding request,		
16	returning a rejection of the responding request to the secon		
17	party.		
1	5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising, prior to		
2	allowing the first representative to confirm the responding request, validating that		
3	the second representative has permission to agree to the amendment by verifying		
4	that permission information for the second representative is digitally signed by a		
5	trusted entity.		
1	6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising recording the		
2	2 request and any response to the request in a database.		
1	7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising validating an		
2	identity of the first party by using a public key of a certification authority to verify		
3	that a certificate containing the public key of the first party was signed by a		
4	corresponding private key belonging to the certification authority;		
5	wherein the signing by the certification authority indicates that the		
6	certification authority has verified the identity of the first party.		
1	8. (Original) The method of claim 1,		
2	wherein receiving the request from the first party involves receiving the		
3	request from a trade facilitator that previously received the request from the first		
4	party; and		
5	wherein returning the confirmed request to the first party involves		
6	forwarding the confirmed request to the first party through the trade facilitator.		

2	request to make the amendment, the method further comprises, allowing the first		
3	representative of the first party to obtain permission to amend the financial		
4	transaction by:		
5	sending a request for permission to a first security officer associated with		
6	the first party; and		
7	allowing the first security officer to digitally sign a permission record to		
8			
1	10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction		
2	involves foreign exchange, and wherein a trade record for the financial transaction		
3	includes:		
4	a trade identifier;		
5	an amend trade identifier;		
6	a trade date;		
7	an identifier for a first currency;		
8	a first currency amount;		
9	an identifier for a first organization providing the first currency;		
10	an identifier for a second currency;		
11	a second currency amount; and		
12	an identifier for a second organization providing the second currency.		
1	11. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing		
2	instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a		
3	method for using digital signatures to validate an amendment to a financial		
4	transaction, the method comprising:		

(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to receiving the

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6	wherein the financial transaction was previously agreed upon between a first party	
7	and a second party, wherein the request is received from a first representative of	
8	the first party and includes a suggested change to at least one term of the financial	
9	transaction;	
10	validating that the first representative of the first party has permission to	
11	agree to the amendment by verifying that the permission information for the first	
12	representative is digitally signed by a trusted entity, wherein the permission	
13	information is stored in a central permission database;	
14	validating that the first representative of the first party digitally signed the	
15	request by using a public key of the first to verify that the request was signed by a	
16	corresponding private key belonging to the first representative;	
17	if the validation establishes that the first representative signed the request	
18	and if the second party desires to agree to the request,	
19	allowing a second representative of the second party to	
20	confirm the request by digitally signing the request with a private	
21	key belonging to the second representative, and	
22	returning the confirmed request to the first party;	
23	otherwise, if the second party does not desire to agree to the request or if	
24	the validation does not establish that the first representative signed the request,	
25	returning a request rejection to the first party.	
1	12 (Canceled).	
1	13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11,	
2	wherein if the validation establishes that the first representative signed the request,	
3	and if the second party does not agree to the request, but instead desires to	

receiving a request to make the amendment to the financial transaction,

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4	propose counter-terms, the method further comprises anowing the second party to	
5	propose counter-terms by:	
6	creating a responding request including a responding amendment with the	
7	counter-terms;	
8	allowing the second representative of the second party to digitally sign the	
9	responding request with a private key belonging to the second representative; and	
10	sending the signed responding request to the first party.	
1	14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of	
2	claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:	
3	validating that the second representative of the second party digitally	
4	signed the responding request by using a public key of the second representative	
5	to verify that the responding request was signed by a corresponding private key	
6	belonging to the second representative; and	
7	if the validation establishes that the second representative signed the	
8	responding request, and if the first party desires to agree to the responding request,	
9	allowing the first representative of the first party to confirm	
10	the responding request by digitally signing the responding request	
11	with a private key belonging to the first representative, and	
12	returning the confirmed responding request to the second	
13	party;	
14	otherwise, if the first party does not desire to agree to the responding	
15	request or if the validation does not establish that the second representative signed	
16	the responding request,	
17	returning a rejection of the responding request to the second	
18	party.	

wherein prior to allowing the first representative to confirm the responding request, the method further comprises validating that the second representative has permission to agree to the amendment by verifying that permission		
request, the method further comprises validating that the second representative has permission to agree to the amendment by verifying that permission	l	15. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14,
has permission to agree to the amendment by verifying that permission	2	wherein prior to allowing the first representative to confirm the responding
	3	request, the method further comprises validating that the second representative
information for the second representative is digitally signed by a trusted entity.	1	has permission to agree to the amendment by verifying that permission
	5	information for the second representative is digitally signed by a trusted entity.

- 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises recording the request and any response to the request in a database.
- 1 17. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11,
 2 wherein the method further comprises validating an identity of the first party by
 3 using a public key of a certification authority to verify that a certificate containing
 4 the public key of the first party was signed by a corresponding private key
 5 belonging to the certification authority;
 6 wherein the signing by the certification authority indicates that the
 - wherein the signing by the certification authority indicates that the certification authority has verified the identity of the first party.
- 18. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11,
 wherein receiving the request from the first party involves receiving the
 request from a trade facilitator that previously received the request from the first
 party; and
 wherein returning the confirmed request to the first party involves
- forwarding the confirmed request to the first party through the trade facilitator.
- 1 19. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, 2 wherein prior to receiving the request to make the amendment, the method further

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1	comprises allowing the first representative of the first party to obtain permission	
2	to amend the financial transaction by:	
3	sending a request for permission to a first security officer associated with	
4	the first party; and	
5	allowing the first security officer to digitally sign a permission record to	
6	indicate the first representative has permission to agree to the amendment.	
1	20. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11,	
2	wherein the financial transaction involves foreign exchange, and wherein a trade	
3	record for the financial transaction includes:	
4	a trade identifier;	
5	an amend trade identifier;	
6	a trade date;	
7	an identifier for a first currency;	
8	a first currency amount;	
9	an identifier for a first organization providing the first currency;	
0	an identifier for a second currency;	
1	a second currency amount; and	
2	an identifier for a second organization providing the second currency.	
1	21. (Currently amended) An apparatus that uses digital signatures to	
2	validate an amendment to a financial transaction, comprising:	
3	a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a request to make the	
4	amendment to the financial transaction, wherein the financial transaction was	
5	previously agreed upon between a first party and a second party, wherein the	
6	request is received from a first representative of the first party and includes a	
7	suggested change to at least one term of the financial transaction;	
8	a validation mechanism that is configured to:	

9	validate that the first representative of the first party has	
0	permission to agree to the amendment by verifying that the permission	
1	information for the first representative is digitally signed by a trusted	
2	entity, wherein the permission information is stored in a central permission	
3	database; and	
4	a validation mechanism that is configured to validate that the first	
5	representative of the first party digitally signed the request by using a public key	
6	of the first representative to verify that the request was signed by a corresponding	
7	private key belonging to the first representative;	
8	an agreement mechanism, wherein if the validation establishes that the	
9	first representative signed the request, and if the second party desires to agree to	
20	the request, the agreement mechanism is configured to,	
21	allow a second representative of the second party to confirm	
22	the request by digitally signing the request with a private key	
23	belonging to the second representative, and to	
24	return the confirmed request to the first party;	
25	otherwise, if the second party does not desire to agree to the	
26	request or if the validation does not establish that the first representative	
27	signed the request, the agreement mechanism is configured to,	
28	return a rejection of the request to the first party.	
1	22 (Canceled).	
1	23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein if the validation	
2	establishes that the first representative signed the request, and if the second party	
3	does not agree to the request, but instead desires to propose counter-terms, the	
4	agreement mechanism is configured to:	

5	create a responding request including a responding amendment with the		
6	counter-terms;		
7	allow the second representative of the second party to digitally sign the		
8	responding request with a private key belonging to the second representative; and		
9	to		
10	send the signed responding request to the first party.		
1	24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, further		
2	comprising:		
3	a second validation mechanism associated with the first party;		
4	wherein the second validation mechanism is configured to validate that the		
5	second representative of the second party digitally signed the responding request		
6	by using a public key of the second representative to verify that the responding		
7	request was signed by a corresponding private key belonging to the second		
8	representative; and		
9	a second agreement mechanism associated with the first party;		
10	wherein if the validation establishes that the second representative signed		
11	the responding request, and if the first party desires to agree to the responding		
12	request, the second agreement mechanism is configured to,		
13	allow the first representative of the first party to confirm the		
14	responding request by digitally signing the responding request with		
15	a private key belonging to the first representative, and to		
16	return the confirmed responding request to the second party;		
17	otherwise, if the first party does not desire to agree to the responding		
18	request or if the validation does not establish that the second representative signed		
19	the responding request, the second agreement mechanism is configured to,		
20	return a rejection of the responding request to the second party.		

1	25.	(Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein prior to allowing the
2	first represent	ative to confirm the responding request, the second validation
3	mechanism is	configured to validate that the second representative has permission
4	to agree to the	amendment by verifying that permission information for the second

representative is digitally signed by a trusted entity.

- 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising an archiving mechanism that is configured to record the request and any response to the request in a database.
- 1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the validation 2 mechanism is configured to validate an identity of the first party by using a public 3 key of a certification authority to verify that a certificate containing the public key 4 of the first party was signed by a corresponding private key belonging to the 5 certification authority;
 - wherein the signing by the certification authority indicates that the certification authority has verified the identity of the first party.
 - 28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21,
 wherein the receiving mechanism is configured to receive the request from
 a trade facilitator that previously received the request from the first party; and
 wherein the agreement mechanism is configured to return the confirmed
 request to the first party by forwarding the confirmed request to the first party
 through the trade facilitator.
- 1 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a 2 permission obtaining mechanism, wherein prior to receiving the request to make 3 the amendment, the permission obtaining mechanism is configured to:

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1	send a request for permission to a first security officer associated with the	
2	first party; and to	
3	allow the first security officer to digitally sign a permission record to	
4	indicate the first representative has permission to agree to the amendment.	
1	30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the financial	
2	transaction involves foreign exchange, and wherein a trade record for the financial	
3	transaction includes:	
4	a trade identifier;	
5	an amend trade identifier;	
6	a trade date;	
7	an identifier for a first currency;	
8	a first currency amount;	
9	an identifier for a first organization providing the first currency;	
10	an identifier for a second currency;	
11	a second currency amount; and	
12	an identifier for a second organization providing the second	
13	currency.	